

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims are rejected. Claims 1, 14, 17 and 18 are currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Drawing is subject to objection because elements 15a-c in figure 1 are not listed in the specification. A Replacement Sheet of figure 1 is submitted with this response.

Claims 1-13 are provisionally rejected for non-statutory double patenting based on copending application 10/807,005. A terminal disclaimer is submitted with this response to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US2004/0103275 (Ji). With regard to the limitation of authenticating the client device if the distance is within a preselected range of distances the Examiner cites Ji at paragraph [0037]. The claims as currently amended distinguish Ji by reciting authenticating the client device if the distance is within a preselected range that is less than maximum communication range of the network. As described at page 13 of the specification of this application and illustrated in Figure 4, exclusion of devices that are distant from the network, e.g., near the edge of the range of the network, can help prevent attacks from eavesdroppers. For example, an attacking device that is outside the building in which the WLAN is in use may be denied authentication based on a weak signal. Ji is susceptible to such attacks because service is provided up to the limits of the coverage area. All of the independent claims are currently amended to emphasize this feature.

The dependent claims further distinguish the invention, and are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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